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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference AM 1321 WO	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR99/00497	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 March 1999 (04.03.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 09 March 1998 (09.03.98)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B01D 53/04		
Applicant CECA S.A.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of \_\_\_\_\_ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09 September 1999 (09.09.99)	Date of completion of this report 26 November 1999 (26.11.1999)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FR99/00497

## I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

☐ the international application as originally filed.

☒ the description, pages 2-8, as originally filed,  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
pages 1, filed with the letter of 20 September 1999 (20.09.1999),  
pages \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

☒ the claims, Nos. 1-9, as originally filed,  
Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, as amended under Article 19,  
Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_,  
Nos. \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed,  
sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand,  
sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_,  
sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FR 99/00497

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

### 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO

### 2. Citations and explanations

EP-A-0 718 024 (D1) (or US-A-5 531 808, mentioned in the application) describes carbonate removal from a gas stream by adsorption with an NaLSX zeolite having a Si/Al ratio of 1.02 (cf. Example 1).

Nothing is indicated in the document regarding an influence of the sodium exchange rate and there is no numerical indication concerning this rate.

Even if the document were considered to concern such zeolites at any exchange rate, nothing in the document enables a rate of at least 98% to be selected, with the technical effect mentioned in the last paragraph of page 2 of the application.

The authorised officer is of the opinion that none of the other documents available, in particular EP-A-0 294 588 (filing number 88 107 209, mentioned in the application) describing superiority of strontium-exchanged zeolites in the comparison with sodium-exchanged zeolites for CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption, are capable of suggesting such an effect.